



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents

FROM: Roy Stehle, Director
Office of Federal and State Accountability

DATE: October 14, 2016

RE: School Closings

The South Carolina General Assembly has amended S.C. Code of Laws §59-1-425 (HB 3890) as it relates to school closings due to snow, extreme weather conditions, or other disruptions. All districts must set aside three days in the annual academic calendar to be used as make-up days. The first three days missed due to snow, extreme weather, or other disruptions, must be made up.

If more than three days are missed, the local school board of trustees, by a majority vote, may waive no more than three days. However, the local school board of trustees may prefer to make-up missed days and can do so by lengthening the school day by no less than one hour or by operating on a Saturday. Any plan to lengthen the school day must be approved by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) before its implementation. Remember, the school/district must lengthen the day more than one hour to be approved. Saturday school operations must accommodate or alternatively reschedule normal Saturday tutorial instruction. A waiver of makeup days will be extended to all district charter schools and all district-approved home school associations.

The State Board of Education has the authority to waive three additional make up days beyond the three forgiven by the local school district upon request. **Every district must report all missed days, reasons for the closure, days made up, and days waived to Justin Tipton, in the Office of Federal and State Accountability, on the website below as days are missed. Please be sure that all days missed are reported to the Office of Federal and State Accountability no later than June 1 of each year enabling the SCDE to report the days to the General Assembly.** Please complete and submit the report at the following website: <https://scde.formstack.com/forms/weatherreporting>. If no days have been missed, this form does not need to be completed, instead, notify Justin Tipton at jtipton@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-8111.

School Closing Days	Action to be Taken	Responsible Party
1–3	Must be made up in the school year	Superintendent and Local School Board of Trustees
4–6	Waive missed days OR Extend the school day <u>or</u> Saturday school	Local School Board of Trustees (<i>a majority vote is required for waiver</i>)
7–9	District requests SBE waiver	State Board of Education

cc: Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader